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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 3, 1999

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Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

mm Doc. 99-25

Dear Chairman Kennard;

I am writing in support of your proposal to create a low power radio service. I have been concerned about changes in radio that have occurred over the last few years, most particularly, the loss of localism and the abdication of many radio stations from any serious public interest responsibility.

Given that almost everyone has a radio, the potential of that medium to fulfill a democratizing and inclusive cultural mission is enormous. Radio should reflect the tremendous diversity of our culture, serving as a point of entry for newly arrived and non-English speaking Americans, providing information and discussions of important local issues and making available cultural/musical programming that is deemed not demographically appealing enough for broadcasters to carry.

Citizens with something to say should be able to know they have access to a small, locally based station which is run by their neighbors.

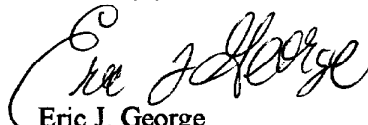
I feel that the 1-10 watt and 50-100 watt stations are the heart and soul of this proposal and should be prioritized. Although I believe that the 500-1000 watt service can be included, such stations should not be allowed in urban areas, where crowded radio dials will allow for very few new stations as it is.

To fulfill its most important function-accessibility-LPFM owners should be restricted to a single station and should live close to the broadcast area of the station. Cross-media ownership should not be allowed.

LPFM stations could transform radio from the monotonous, pro-corporate, anti-consumer jukebox that it is today. The keepers of the information gateways truly fear LPFM stations in the same way that they fear the growing popularity of the internet. The internet enables people to search for information, from a true variety of sources, that has not been filtered through the marketing department

I commend you for your foresight in proposing this service and hope that you are able to succeed in your plan to open up the airwaves to new voices.

Sincerely yours,



Eric J. George
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